

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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STATE FOR EUR/EE FOR AMBASSADOR BARNES; CU/ARTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE
THEATRE FESTIVAL (ACTF)

SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN COLLEGE THEATRE
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR DAVID YOUNG IN PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE
YIELDED SOME ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS FOR ROMANIAN
PARTICIPATION IN THE KENNEDY CENTER AMERICAN COLLEGE
THEATRE FESTIVAL BETWEEN APRIL 11 AND 13. YOUNG HAD TALKS
ARRANGED BY EMBASSY WITH LIVIU CIULEI (STUPE) DIRECTOR, BULANDRA
THEATRE, AND MET WITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND
EDUCATION VICE PRESIDENT ION DODU BALAN. WHILE IMPORTANT
DETAILS REMAIN UNSETTLED CONCERNING (A) INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORTATION (WHICH WE PROPOSE THE ROMANIANS PAY), B)
PER DIEM WHILE IN THE U.S., (WHICH YOUNG MAY BE ABLE TO
ARRANGE, ALTHOUGH WE ARE INSISTING AT THIS TIME THAT
ROMANIAN'S CONTRIBUTE SOME SUPPORT - APPROXIMATELY \$20 PER
DAY) AND C) SHIPMENT OF SETS WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC. CIULEI
WHO HELPED US DESIGN OUR STRATEGY FOR HANDLING PROPOSAL HERE
AND APPROACHING COUNCIL - IS HOPEFUL HE WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS
BULANDRA PARTICIPATION IN ACTF WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT DUMITRY
POPESCU IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

1. AS AGREED IN CORRESPONDENCE FROM AMBASSADOR BARNES AND HIS
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CORRESPONDENCE WITH DAVID YOUNG, WE ASSISTED YOUNG IN

ESTABLISHING CONTACTS WITH CIULEI AND COUNCIL DURING HIS STAY HERE WITH THE ARTS AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS FROM OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 11. SINCE YOUNG WAS OUT OF BUCHAREST AND IN THE PROVINCE DURING MUCH OF HIS STAY IN ROMANIAN DISCUSSIONS WERE CONCENTRATED IN THE PERIOD 29 TO 31 OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 10. YOUNG IS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON TODAY AND WILL CONTACT AMBASSADOR BARNES AND EX-BUCHAREST CAO DICK GILBERT TO DISCUSS PRESENT PROGRESS IN ARRANGING FOR ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION IN ACTF. YOUNG ATTENDED PAUL FOSTER'S "ELIZABETH I"UB, OCTOBER 29 AND WAS POSITIVELY IMPRESSED WITH THE COMPANY. HE ALSO SAW THE FINAL ACT OF

GORKI'S "UP FROM THE DEPTHS" LAST NIGHT WHICH LEFT HIM EQUALLY WELL-IMPRESSED.

2. WE ARE SEEKING WAYS TO FACILITATE TRAVEL TO U.S. OF BULANDRA COMPANY OF APPROXIMATELY 35 ACTORS AND TECHNICIANS AND APPROXIMATELY 2,000 CUBIC FEET OF SETS FOR "ELIZABETH I" AND ION LUCU CARIGALE'S "THE LOST LETTER" FOR PRESENTATION AT ACTF PROFESSIONAL THEATRES IN NEW YORK AND UNIVERSITY THEATRES IN OTHER CITIES WHICH WOULD BE ARRANGED BY YOUNG TO TAKE PLACE OVER A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS.

3. ON OCTOBER 31, YOUNG AND PAO MET WITH COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT BALAN AND AMERICAN DESK OFFICER CIUHERZU (CIULEI EXPLICITLY WAS NOT INVITED BY THE COUNCIL TO ATTEND). BALAN EXPRESSED ENTHUSIASTIC INTEREST IN BULANDRA TRIP TO U.S. AND OFFERED HIS "GOOD WILL TO DO ALL THAT I CAN TO HELP". HE IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED TO SEEK ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUCHAREST (WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BULANDRA) TO COVER ANY DEFICITS THE THEATRE MIGHT DEVELOP WHILE TRAVELING IN U.S. HOWEVER, HE LAPSED INTO PESSIMISM WHEN YOUNG SUGGESTED THAT INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTA-

TION AND PER DIEM FOR THE COMPANY BE PAID BY THE COUNCIL. CIUHERZU USED HIS CHARACTERISTIC TACTIC OF SAYING THAT THE ROMANIAN SIDE COULD PAY FOR NOTHING SINCE "INVITATION" IS FROM A U.S. INSTITUTION WHICH SHOULD BE EXPECTED TO COVER ALL THE COSTS. IN A NOVEMBER 10 CONVERSATION WITH PAO, CIUHERZU SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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"WE MUST FIND SOME WAY TO SHARE COSTS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION" IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY ON STATUS OF PROPOSAL. WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN COUNCIL HAS DEFINITELY NOT CLOSED THE CASE AND THAT THERE MAY BE SOME PROGRESS TOWARD COUNCIL COVERING AT LEAST INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION.

4. IN DISCUSSIONS LAST NIGHT BETWEEN YOUNG, CIULEI AND PAO, IT WAS DECIDED THAT YOUNG SHOULD EXTEND FORMAL

INVITATION TO BULANDRA DIRECTOR RIMAN TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTF. IN THE MEANTIME, CIULEI WILL CONTINUE HIS "POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAGING" FOR THE PROPSAL WHICH MAY INCLUDE A MEETING WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT DUMITRIU POPESCU. CIULEI SAID POPESCU HAS BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE INVITATION AND THE OCTOBER 31 MEETING WE HAD WITH BALAN.

5. AS PART OF OUR FOLLOW-UP WITH COUNCIL ON THIS MATTER WE INTEND TO RAISE IT AGAIN NEXT WEEK DURING OUR PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION ON THE MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS. WE SUPPORT THE PROPSAL ORALLY OR WRITTEN WHEREVER WE FEEL THIS MIGHT HELP.

6. WHILE WE DO NOT WISH TO BE UNREALISTIC ABOUT THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT THE COUNCIL MAY BE ABLE TO OFFER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION FOR PEOPLE AND SETS, WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT SOMETHING POSITIVE COULD RESULT FROM THESE EFFORTS. INVITATION PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ROMANIA TO PRESENT ONE OF ITS MOST VALUABLE CULTURAL ASSETS WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDING IN THE U.S. IN OUR NUMEROUS CONTACTS WITH COUNCIL AND OTHER ROMANIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS (CF MEMCONS FROM VISIT OF LEONARD MARKS) WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN MAKING ROMANIA BETTER KNOWN IN THE U.S. WE BELIEVE THIS INVITATION PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. WE OBVIOUSLY REGARD THE PROSPECT OF A BULANDRA TRIP TO THE U.S. AS BEING IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. WE WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR BARNES POSTED ON DEVELOPMENTS.

7. FYI: CIULEI WILL BE DIRECTING "LEONCE AND LENA" IN VANCOUVER, B.C. FROM JANUARY TO MARCH AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ACCOMPANY THE BULANDRA COMPANY TO THE U.S. AFTER RETURNING BRIEFLY TO ROMANIA. END FYI

8. FOR USIA/IEU: PLEASE CALL THIS MESSAGE TO
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ATTENTION OF BUCHAREST EX-CAO DICK GILBER (PRESENTLY IN FINNISH LANGUAGE TRAINING) WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CREATING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THIS INVITATION BASED ON TALKS HE HAD WITH YOUNG AT KENNEDY CENTER IN LATE SEPTEMBER.
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